TechNews is a guide to share information regarding deadlines, events and software version release dates. The intended audiences are PCHA and FPA-PM application users. New FPA updates, changes and work arounds to PCHA and FPA-PM are listed below. Web site links relative to the software updates are also highlighted.

Helpdesk Issues:

Errors during XML file import to FPA-PM. If the problem cannot be resolved using the process described in the July 1, 2005 edition of Technews try this fix:

> Open PCHA and go to the FPA > Edit FMU Attributes tab. Look at the FMU names in the table; if they are not the same as in FPA-PM, the XML error will persist. There are two workarounds:
> **1**. Change the FMU names in FPA-PM to match PCHA.
> **2**. Rebuild the PCHA database.
> To ensure data integrity between the two systems, only FPA-PM will accept FMU name changes.

Attempting a PM cost limit analysis with five points and only getting four points. This problem is related to an internal rounding inconsistency, where the upper interval isn't included. The solution is to raise the upper cost limit after determining the interval using the formula: (Max cost-Min cost)/4. Add the interval amount to the Minimum and repeat for each of the five desired points. The final number (fifth point) is what the optimizer will use for the Maximum cost limit and if it is more than your desired Maximum cost only four points will be analyzed.

Problem in the Manage Budget tab. There cannot be two identical expenditure levels when validating a budget submission. The problem occurs when the optimizer cannot "buy" anymore resources with a cost limit increase.

> One way to determine if there is a problem prior to going through the allocation process is to look at the Cost Summary Report under the column headed "Budget Preparedness Cost." If any of the items in that column are the same, a budget submission will not validate. The fix is to raise the Max cost, re-calculate the intervals then re-run the analysis. It may be necessary to do this two or more times to get acceptable results.

More Manage Budget tab items:
> a. The sum of Direct and Indirect costs cannot exceed the total shown in the Allocated Funds column on the screen;
> b. The Fire Leadership category may not be overspent. If the amount available is exceeded, a validation error will occur when attempting to submit the budget. Any excess funds from Fire Leadership are available in Fire Support so the money doesn't disappear.

Submitting an analysis:
Two analyses cannot be submitted for the same budget year. Should you need to "unsubmit" an analysis, contact the ICG member for your geographic area.

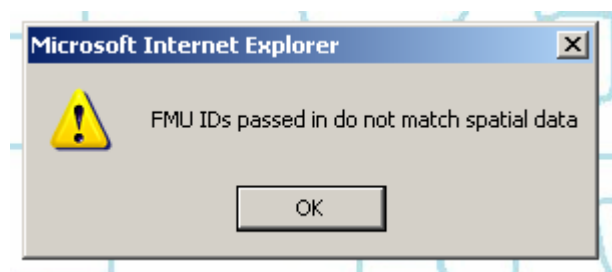**Maximum Slope in FPA-PM**

    Summary of Problem:
    FPA-PM requires elevation, slope and aspect for each fire scenario. These values are assigned to fire scenarios in FPA-HA (also known as PCHA). The ***maximum*** slope value that will be accepted by FPA-PM is 200%. PM will reject scenarios with slope values over 200%.

    Applies to:
    The only FPA-PM users who are likely to encounter this limitation are those using locally generated elevation data or high resolution elevation data. Users utilizing USGS 30 meter Digital Elevation Model (DEM) elevation data (and slope derived from these data), and those using the FPA-HA "Web Based Topographic Attributes" tool will not encounter this problem.

Shapefile FMU ID error

    Summary of Problem:

    Zipped shapefile is successfully uploaded to FPA-PM, with correct topology and field structure. FMUs list correctly in the Enter Data > FMU page. When the "View Map" button is clicked to show the entire FPU or a single FMU the following error dialog is displayed:

    Workaround:

    1. Select all of the FMUs.
    2. Click "Change Association".
    3. When blue checkmarks appear, indicating FMUs are associated with FPU, map display will function.